

1 S.33

2 Introduced by Senators Sirotkin and Starr

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Agriculture; education; farm to school

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make multiple
7 amendments to the requirements of the Rozo McLaughlin Farm-to-School
8 Program (Program), including specifying the purpose and State goal of the
9 Program.

10 An act relating to the Rozo McLaughlin Farm-to-School Program

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. chapter 211 is amended to read:

13 CHAPTER 211. THE ROZO MCLAUGHLIN

14 FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM

15 § 4719. PURPOSE AND STATE GOAL

16 (a) Purpose. It is the purpose of this chapter to establish a farm-to-school
17 program to:

18 (1) encourage Vermont residents in developing healthy and lifelong
19 habits of eating nutritious local foods;

1 (2) maximize use by Vermont schools of fresh and locally grown,
2 produced, or processed food;

3 (3) work with partners to establish a food, farm, and nutrition education
4 program that educates Vermont students regarding healthy eating habits
5 through the use of educational materials, classes, and hands-on techniques that
6 inform students of the connections between farming and the foods that students
7 consume;

8 (4) increase the size and stability of direct sales markets available to
9 farmers; and

10 (5) increase participation of Vermont students in school meal programs
11 by increasing the selection of available foods.

12 (b) State Farm to School Network goal. It is the goal of the
13 Farm-to-School Program to establish a food system that by 2025:

14 (1) engages 75 percent of Vermont schools in an integrated food system
15 education program that incorporates community-based learning; and

16 (2) purchases 50 percent of food from local or regional food sources.

17 § 4720. DEFINITIONS

18 As used in this chapter, “Farm-to-School Program” means an integrated
19 food, farm, and nutrition education program that utilizes community-based
20 learning opportunities to connect schools with nearby farms so that child
21 nutrition programs can provide students with locally produced fresh fruits and

1 vegetables, dairy and protein products, and other nutritious, locally produced
2 foods; help children develop healthy eating habits; provide nutritional and
3 agricultural education in the classroom, cafeteria, and school community; and
4 improve farmers' incomes and direct access to markets.

5 § 4721. LOCAL FOODS GRANT PROGRAM

6 (a) There is created in the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets the
7 Rozo McLaughlin Farm-to-School Program to execute, operate, and award
8 local grants for the purpose of helping Vermont schools develop
9 farm-to-school programs that will sustain relationships with local farmers and
10 producers, enrich the educational experience of students, improve the health of
11 Vermont children, and enhance Vermont's agricultural economy.

12 (b) A school, a school district, a consortium of schools, ~~or~~ a consortium of
13 school districts, or registered or licensed child care providers may apply to the
14 Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets for a grant award to:

15 (1) fund equipment, resources, training, and materials that will help to
16 increase use of local foods in the School ~~Food Service~~ Nutrition Program;

17 (2) fund items, including local ~~farm~~ food products, gardening supplies,
18 field trips to farms, gleanings on farms, and stipends to visiting farmers, that
19 will help teachers to use hands-on educational techniques to teach children
20 about nutrition and farm-to-school connections; and

1 (3) ~~provide fund~~ professional development and technical assistance, in
2 partnership with the Agency of Education and farm-to-school technical service
3 providers, to help teachers, school nutrition personnel, and members of the
4 farm-to-school community educate students about nutrition and farm-to-school
5 connections and assist schools in developing a farm-to-school program.

6 (4) fund technical assistance or support strategies to increase
7 participation in federal child nutrition programs that increase viability of
8 sustainable meal programs.

9 (c) The Secretaries of Agriculture, Food and Markets and of Education and
10 the Commissioner of Health, in consultation with farmers, ~~food service~~
11 ~~workers~~ school nutrition staff, ~~and~~ educators, and farm-to-school technical
12 service providers jointly shall ~~jointly~~ adopt ~~rules~~ procedures relating to the
13 content of the grant application and the criteria for making awards.

14 (d) The Secretary shall determine that there is significant interest in the
15 school community before making an award and shall give priority
16 consideration to schools ~~and~~, school districts and registered or licensed child
17 care providers that are developing farm-to-school connections and education
18 that indicate a willingness to make changes to their school or child care
19 nutrition programs that increase student access and participation and that are
20 making progress toward the implementation of the Vermont ~~nutrition and~~
21 ~~fitness policy guidelines~~ School Wellness Policy Guidelines developed by the

1 Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Agency of Education, and the
2 Department of Health, ~~dated November 2005~~ updated in June 2015 or of the
3 successor of these guidelines.

4 (e) No award shall be greater than \$15,000.00.

5 § 4722. FARM ASSISTANCE; SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD
6 AND MARKETS

7 (a) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall work with
8 existing programs and organizations to develop and implement educational
9 opportunities for farmers to help them ~~to~~ increase their markets through selling
10 their products to schools, registered or licensed child care providers, and State
11 government agencies ~~and participating in the federal food commodities~~
12 ~~program, including the federal Department of Defense Fresh Program, and~~
13 ~~selling to regulated child care programs participating in the Adult and Child~~
14 ~~Food Program~~ that operate or participate in child nutrition programs.

15 (b) ~~For the purposes of this section and section 4723 of this title, the~~
16 ~~Secretary may provide funds to one or more technical assistance providers to~~
17 ~~provide farm-to-school education and teacher training to more school districts~~
18 ~~and to assist the Secretaries of Agriculture, Food and Markets and of Education~~
19 ~~to carry out farmer and food service worker training.~~ The Secretary of
20 Agriculture, Food and Markets shall work with distributors that sell products to

1 schools, registered or licensed child care providers, and State government
2 agencies to increase the availability of local products.

3 § 4723. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR FOOD SERVICE

4 PERSONNEL

5 (a) The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of
6 Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Commissioner of Health, and
7 farm-to-school organizations and partners, shall offer ~~expanded regional~~
8 ~~training sessions~~ professional development opportunities for public school
9 food service and child care personnel and child care resource development
10 specialists ~~as funds are made available~~. Training shall include information
11 about strategies for ~~purchasing~~ procuring, processing, and serving locally
12 grown foods, especially with regard to federal procurement program
13 requirements, as well as information about nutrition, obesity prevention,
14 coping with severe food allergies, universal recycling, and food service
15 operations. The Secretary of Education may use a portion of the funds
16 appropriated for this training session to pay a portion of or all expenses for
17 attendees and to develop manuals or other materials to help in the training.

18 (b) The Secretary of Education shall ~~train people as funds are made~~
19 ~~available to,~~ with existing programs and organizations, provide training related
20 to procurement of local food and technical assistance to school food service
21 and child care personnel and use a portion of the funds appropriated for this

1 purpose to enable the trained people to provide technical assistance at the
2 school and school district levels.

3 (c) Training provided under this section shall promote the policies
4 established in the Vermont ~~nutrition and fitness policy guidelines~~ School
5 Wellness Policy Guidelines developed by the Agencies of Agriculture, Food
6 and Markets and of Education and the Department of Health, ~~dated November~~
7 ~~2005~~ updated in June 2015, or the guidelines' successor.

8 § 4724. ~~LOCAL FOODS COORDINATOR~~ FOOD SYSTEMS

9 ADMINISTRATOR

10 (a) The position of ~~local food coordinator~~ Food Systems Administrator is
11 established in the ~~agency of agriculture, food and markets~~ Agency of
12 Agriculture, Food and Markets for the purpose of assisting Vermont producers
13 ~~to increase~~ in increasing their access to commercial markets and institutions,
14 including schools, ~~state~~ registered or licensed child care providers, State and
15 municipal governments, and hospitals.

16 (b) The duties of the ~~local foods coordinator~~ Food Systems Administrator
17 shall include:

18 (1) working with institutions, schools, registered or licensed child care
19 providers, distributors, producers, commercial markets, and others to create
20 matchmaking opportunities that increase the number of Vermont institutions
21 that purchase foods grown or produced in Vermont;

1 (2) coordinating funding and providing support to the farm-to-school
2 and farm-to-institutions programs within the ~~agency of agriculture, food and~~
3 ~~markets~~ Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and coordinating with
4 interested parties to access funding or create matchmaking opportunities across
5 the supply chain that increase participation in those programs;

6 (3) encouraging and facilitating ~~the enrollment of state employees~~ State
7 employee access and awareness of opportunities for purchasing local food,
8 including: enrollment in a local community supported agriculture (CSA)
9 organization, purchasing from local farm stands, and participation in a farmers'
10 market;

11 (4) developing a database of producers and potential purchasers and
12 enhancing the ~~agency's website~~ Agency's and partners' ability to improve and
13 support local foods coordination through the use of information
14 technology; and

15 (5) providing technical support to local communities with their food
16 security efforts.

17 (c) The ~~local foods coordinator~~ Food Systems Administrator, working with
18 the ~~commissioner of buildings and general services~~ Commissioner of
19 Buildings and General Services pursuant to rules adopted under 29 V.S.A.
20 § 152(14), shall:

1 (1) encourage and facilitate ~~CSA enrollment~~ awareness of and
2 opportunities to procure healthy local foods by ~~state~~ State employees through
3 the use of approved advertisements and solicitations on ~~state-owned~~
4 State-owned property; and

5 (2) implement guidelines for the appropriate use of ~~state~~ State property
6 for employee participation in CSA organizations, including reasonable
7 restrictions on the time, place, and manner of solicitations, advertisements,
8 deliveries, and related activities to ensure the safety and welfare of ~~state~~ State
9 property and its occupants.

10 (d) The ~~local foods coordinator~~ Food Systems Administrator shall
11 administer a local foods grant program, the purpose of which shall be to
12 provide grants to allow Vermont producers to increase their access to
13 commercial and institutional markets.

14 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 559 is amended to read:

15 § 559. PUBLIC BIDS

16 (a) When the cost exceeds \$15,000.00. A school board or supervisory
17 union board shall publicly advertise or invite three or more bids from persons
18 deemed capable of providing items or services if costs are in excess of
19 \$15,000.00 for any of the following:

20 (1) the construction, purchase, lease, or improvement of any school
21 building;

